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(54) Title: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION FOR TREATMENT OF MUCOSAL EPITHELIAL ULCERATION AND/OR
EROSION

(57) Abstract: A bioadhesive pharmaceutical composition for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions, said com-
position comprising: (i) a bioadhesive substance; (ii) a biologically active substance having MMP inhibitory activity; and (iii) an
optional physiologically acceptable vehicle; said bioadhesive substance and optional physiologically acceptable vehicle being se-
lected to release the biologically active substance in a therapeutic amount into the epithelia of the mucosa without affecting the normal
flora thereof; use of the composition for the manufacture of a medicament for treating mucosal ulceration and/or erosion; a method
of treating mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion in a mammal; and a method of delivering a biologically active substance to
the mucosa of a mammal for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion.

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PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION FOR TREATMENT OF MUCOSAL
EPITHELIAL ULCERATION AND/OR EROSION

5 DESCRIPTION

1. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to a bioadhesive
pharmaceutical composition for treatment of mucosal
epithelial ulceration and/or erosions; use of the
composition for the manufacture of a medicament for
treating mucosal ulceration and/or erosion; a method of
treating mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion in
15 a mammal; and a method of delivering a biologically
active substance to the mucosa of a mammal for treatment
of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion.

The Technical Field

20

Buccal Ulcerations

The Dental Practitioners/ British National Formulary (DPF
1982-4/BNF No. 4 1982) recommends a bacteriostatic
25 concentration of tetracycline (125mg/5ml) as a mouth bath
for the treatment of mucosal ulceration. This extremely
high concentration of 25mg/ml (2.5% w/v) and the poor
bioflux of the formulation will result in a considerable
waste of drug, cause a high risk of affecting the
30 microbiological balance of the mucosa and may induce
bacteriological resistance to this drug. Also, the
formulation does not have bioadhesive properties and,
therefore requires high concentration of tetracycline in

order to achieve passive influx of the drug in sufficient amounts through the mucosa and into the epithelium.

Other therapeutic methods are based on the use of
5 doxycycline, Periostat® or the injectable doxycycline, Atridox®. These formulations are designed for peroral/gingival sulcal administration and not for topical delivery to the mucosa.

10 Topical administration to the oral mucosa of formulations containing tetracycline or tetracycline-like substances as the active ingredient have been designed to treat periodontal disease or infectious conditions by
15 delivering bacteriostatic concentrations of the antibiotic in the gingival crevice with slow release of the active ingredient over the treatment period. E.g. EP 0 125 759 uses 1%(w/w) of tetracycline base, a fixative agent, e.g. 10%(w/w) iota-carregeenan, and excipients, e.g. 1,5%(w/w) hydroxyethyl cellulose and 0,7%(w/w)
20 buffer salts, and the rest water (Example 6) for antifungal activity. With the intention of having antifungal activity as opposed to the present invention. This also differs from present invention in the amount of active ingredient being 1% opposed to 0,1-0,30%.

25 Also, in order to exploit anti-inflammatory properties, although not mentioned as action intended by producers, rather than bacteriostatic properties of doxycycline and doxycycline-like substances, formulations (e.g. Atridox®) have been used to release sub-inhibitory doses of
30 doxycycline (100mg/g) (10.0% w/w) to the gingival crevice for the treatment of periodontal disease.

In the treatment of various periodontal diseases, including mucosal diseases, tetracyclines have been used

as adjuncts the doses ($\geq 125\text{mg/dose}$) of which have affected the natural oral bacterial flora (normal flora). Although they produce a considerable relief of symptoms, the long-term therapy and high dosage induce serious side effects, such as a high incidence of bacterial resistance to the drug, and frequent fungal infections due to suppression of natural bacterial flora (Kornman et al., *Journal of Periodontology*, 53, 604-610, 1982). A number of terms have been used to describe the characteristic mixtures of microorganisms associated with a specific site, these include, normal, indigenous, natural, resident or commensal flora (Marsh P, *Oral Microbiology* 4th ed., Reed Educational and Professional Publishing Ltd. 1999), here after in this text the word normal flora will be used when referring to this subject.

In EP 0 184 389 there is disclosed a stable composition containing minocycline for treating periodontal diseases, said composition comprising a magnesium compound as stabiliser. A method of treating periodontal diseases includes injection thereof into the inside of periodontal pockets. Nothing is indicated or suggested about treating the mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions, nor adaptation of the release of biologically active substance so as not to affect the normal flora of the mucosa.

Another invention DE 4 434 929 describes the use of nystatine (2-3%) to treat periodontal diseases using nystatine as the BAS and carbopol 934 as an excipient. As opposed to tetracycline nystatine does not have an MMP inhibitory effect. And the effort is focused on the bactericidal effect as the mechanism they are looking for, where the current invention focuses on the MMP

inhibitory effect - a significantly different mechanism and in significantly lower doses of BAS (0,1-0,3%). The excipient carbopol 934 is mentioned and used in both inventions is another similarity. In present invention, however, carbopol is used in 0,5-1,5% concentration, where the German invention teaches that it should be used in 25-30% concentration.

Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMP'S)

10

MMP's are enzymes that take part in many inflammatory processes in the human body and promote breakdown of tissues and fibers when their natural inhibitors do not correctly regulate them. Over ten years ago scientists discovered that the tetracyclines not only possess antibacterial properties but also inhibit MMP's (Golub et. al., *Journal of Periodontal Research*, 18, 516-526, 1983).

20 Examples of pathological conditions characterized by excessive MMP activity include: osteoporosis; various arthritis, including rheumatoid, osteo- and reactive arthritis; bullous and ulcerative skin diseases including recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa; α_1 -anti-
25 trypsin-deficiency paniculitis; dermatitis herpetiformis; and pyoderma gangrenosum; sterile corneal ulcers; various complications of diabetes mellitus; and tumor-induced angiogenesis; invasion and metastasis as described in recent review publication by Ingman et al. (Ingman et al., *Journal of Periodontology*, 64, 82-88, 1993). Other
30 physiological events that MMP's are involved in are such as embryologic development, tissue remodelling, salivary gland morphogenesis, and tooth eruption (Ryan et al., *Current Opinion in Periodontology*, 3, 85-96, 1996).

The structure of the MMP's is generally divided in five parts: the signal peptide, propeptide, catalytic site, hinge region, and pexin like domain. When activated the enzyme first loses the signal peptide and then the internal bonds of the propeptide are disrupted. The disruption of the Cystein-Zn⁺⁺ bond is a prerequisite to the activation of the enzymes, which allows Zn⁺⁺ to catalyze one or more cleavages (Birkedal-Hansen, *Journal of Periodontology*, 64, 474-484, 1993).

It has been found that of the commercially available tetracyclines, doxycycline has shown the best inhibition of the MMP's (Burns et al., *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, 30, 1569-1575, 1989). The mechanism of this inhibition was first proposed to be the ability of the tetracyclines to inhibit already active MMP's, which was shown by Golub et al. (Golub et al., *Journal of Periodontal Research*, 18, 516-526, 1983). Later it was found that the tetracyclines also inhibited pro-MMP activation and also down-regulated the expression of MMP's (Ryan et al., *Advances in Dental Research* 12: 149-151, 1998). Chemically modified tetracyclines (CMT) have been made to rid the tetracyclines of the anti-bacterial properties and to identify the site of the anti-collagenase property (Golub et al., *Critical Reviews in Oral Biology & Medicine*, 2, 297-322, 1991). This study revealed that CMT-5, a pyrrazole analogue, did not have any anticollagenase properties. Here the carbon group in position 11 and hydroxyl group in position 12 had been removed, thus it appeared that the carbonyl and the hydroxyl groups at C-11 and C-12, respectively, might be essential for the anticollagenase property of these drugs. Other chelating chemicals have shown inhibition

of MMP's, like EDTA and TMB-8 (Gabler et al., *Journal of Periodontal Research*, 26, 52-58, 1991).

Tetracycline MMP Inhibitors

5
Studies using tetracyclines in formulations indicate that tetracyclines may act as MMP inhibitors. Thus, Ciancio used low-dose doxycycline therapy in patients with adult periodontitis (Ciancio, *Advances in Dental Research*, 12, 10 27-31, 1998). Other studies, such as wound healing after topical application of CMT-2 (Ramamurthy et al., *Advances in Dental Research*, 12, 144-148, 1998), bone resorption in rats (Chang et al., *Journal of Periodontal Research*, 29, 242-249, 1994), suppression of human neutrophil 15 functions (Gabler et al., *Journal of Periodontal Research*, 26, 52-58, 1991), mouse renal adenocarcinoma and metastasis (Masumori et al., *The Journal of Urology*, 151, 1400-1404, 1994), inhibition of collagenolytic activity of extracts from human osteoarthritic cartilage 20 (Yu et al., *The Journal of Rheumatology*, 18, 1450-1452, 1991), and the effect of tetracyclines on collagenases activity in patients with recurrent aphthous ulcers (Häyrinen-Immonen et al., *Journal of Oral Pathology & Medicine*, 23, 269-272, 1994), also show the MMP activity 25 of tetracyclines. It has also been shown that in low doses the tetracyclines do not induce the emergence of tetracycline resistance bacterial strains (Schroeder et al., *Journal of Dental Research*, 71, 758(1936), 1992; Thomas et al., *Journal of Dental Research*, 74, 575(1394), 30 1995).

2. DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is the object of the present invention to provide a pharmaceutical composition and method for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions without affecting the normal flora of the mucosa.

It is another object of the present invention to provide such a pharmaceutical composition and method for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions which reduces amount of biologically active substance and which reduces the risk of side effects.

Further objects of the present invention appear from the disclosure elsewhere in the description.

According to the invention, this object is fulfilled by providing a bioadhesive pharmaceutical composition for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions as claimed in claim 1; said composition comprising:

- (i) a bioadhesive substance;
- (ii) a biologically active substance having MMP inhibitory activity; and
- (iii) an optional physiologically acceptable vehicle;

said bioadhesive substance and optional physiologically acceptable vehicle being selected to release the biologically active substance in a therapeutic amount into the epithelia of the mucosa without affecting the normal flora thereof. Within the present invention the term "without affecting the normal flora" is intended to mean, that the normal flora of the mucosa being treated will be the same prior to and after treatment with the

present invention. This also indicates that a fungal infection will not occur as a result of an unbalanced normal flora.

5 It is predictable that inhibition of bacterial growth will occur when in direct contact with bacteria, given the nature of the active substance, when being tetracycline or any of it's derivatives, this is a positive action in the core of ulceration and as shown in
10 example 5 it does not have this marked effect on the bacteria when in the mixed normal flora nor following diffusion from the base of the ulcer or other lesions.

This object is further solved by providing use of the
15 pharmaceutical composition according to the invention for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion of humans.

Generally, the administration of the biologically active substance can be at any suitable location of the mucosa.
20 In a preferred embodiment, the administration is to a surface of a mucosa whereby a site-specific action is obtained and systemic action is prevented.

Also, this object is further solved by providing a method
25 of treating mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion in a mammal wherein an effective amount of a composition according to the invention is administered to a mammal; or to provide a method of delivering a biologically active substance to the mucosa of a mammal for such a
30 treatment comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a composition according to the invention.

"Mucosal Epithelial Ulceration and/or Erosions"

The pharmaceutical formulation is intended for use as a treatment of numerous inflammatory and/or ulcerative conditions of the oral mucosa, both chronic and acute. These disorders have widely differing aetiologies but have in common the destruction of mucosa in which MMP's are thought to play a part, as for example in aphthous ulcerations where it has been shown that MMP-8 is the predominant collagenase at the core of the ulcers (Häyrinen-Immonen et al., *Journal of Oral Pathology & Medicine*, 23, 269-272, 1994). The invention is not intended for treating deep ulcers extending beyond the lamina propria into muscle, fat, bone or other underlying tissues. The pharmaceutical formulation is applied, preferably as a bioadhesive hydrogel composition, to the affected area of the mucosa which may be moist or pre-dried. Increased adhesion makes the treatment more effective. The action of the bioadhesive composition is the inhibition of MMP's that in turn prevents further destruction of tissue that is attempting to repair.

Diseases in mammals and humans that are amenable to therapy with the bioadhesive pharmaceutical composition according to the invention, preferably bioadhesive hydrogel composition, include primary herpes simplex (herpetic gingivo-stomatitis); secondary (recurrent) herpes e.g. in the oral cavity, not least where this condition appears in immuno-compromised patients; major and minor aphthous ulceration; herpetiform ulceration herpangina hand, foot and mouth disease and other manifestations of coxsackie virus infections in the oral cavity or other mucosal surfaces; mucosal manifestation of erythema multiforme and variations of this condition

in the oral cavity or other mucosal surfaces; lichen planus including erosive (ulcerative) and atrophic forms of oral lichen planus as well as lichen planus conditions on other mucosal surfaces; other forms of intra-mucosal ulceration including mucous membrane pemphigoid.

According to the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition for local delivery of a biologically active substance (BAS) for the treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions.

These conditions include various inflammatory and ulcerative diseases of mucous membranes, particularly the oral mucous membrane. The diseases include minor aphthous ulceration; major aphthous ulceration; primary herpes infection; coxsackie viral infections; erythema multiforme; mucous membrane pemphigoid and erosive/ atrophic forms of lichen planus.

Generally, the diseases include that the mucosa is inflamed, ulcerated or that it has surface erosion. In a preferred embodiment, the ulcers and erosions extend through part of, or the entire surface epithelial layer of the mucosa but only just into the underlying lamina propria.

The pharmaceutical composition according to the invention is not intended for treating deep ulcers extending beyond the lamina propria into muscle, fat, bone or other underlying tissues.

Further, it is not intended for the treatment of periodontal disease with the exception of (i) acute

gingivitis caused by herpes virus infection; (ii) other viral infections of the gingiva; (iii) desquamative types of gingivitis such as in oral manifestations of pemphigoid and lichen planus.

5

Generally, the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention can be applied to any suitable mucosa. In a preferred embodiment, the mucosal surface is selected from the group of mucosal surfaces of the nose, lungs, mouth, eye, ear, gastrointestinal tract, genital tract, vagina and rectum.

10

"Biologically Active Substance"

15

The biological active substance is a substance having matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitor activity.

The proposed biologically active substance may be a tetracycline or its derivative in a concentration below antibacterial use. The BAS may also be an enzyme inhibitor such as MMP inhibitor.

20

Preferably, biologically active substance is a low-dose tetracycline or any of its derivatives, which have virtually no antimicrobial activity and is therefore less likely to induce the emergence of resistant strains of bacteria.

25

Preferred tetracyclines may be selected from, but not limited to tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline, oxytetracycline, chlortetracycline, methacycline, demeclocycline or any other chemically modified tetracycline.

30

In a preferred embodiment, the biologically active substance is selected from the group consisting of tetracycline's or its derivatives such as tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline or oxytetracycline, and in a concentration below antimicrobial concentration.

The combination of bioadhesive properties of the bioadhesive substance and release time of the biological active substance is adapted to induce a therapeutic effect.

It is preferred that the biologically active substance is released in a therapeutic amount into the epithelia of the mucosa without affecting the normal bacterial flora.

The concentration of the biologically active substance is selected to provide the therapeutic effect without affecting the normal flora.

In a preferred embodiment, the concentration of the biologically active substance is in the range 0.05 to 0.5%, preferably 0.1 to 0.5%, most preferred 0.1 to 0.3% (w/w) of the composition.

Generally the biologically active substance can be in any suitable form.

In a preferred embodiment, the biologically active substance is in a dissolved form whereby it is more stable than in a particulate form.

In another preferred embodiment, the biologically active substance is in a particulate form whereby it is more stable than in a dissolved form.

5 "Additional Active Ingredients"

In addition to releasing the biologically active substance having MMP inhibitory activity, the composition may comprise one or more additional active ingredients.

10

In a preferred embodiment, the one or more additional active ingredients is selected from the group consisting of anesthetics including benzocaine, pramoxine, dibucaine, diclonine, lidocaine, mepiracaine, prilocaine and tetracaine; astringents including calamine, zinc oxide, tannic acid, hamamelis water, zinc sulfate; wound cleansers such as benzalkonium chloride, carbamide peroxide, tannic acid, salicylic acid, triclosan, benzoyl peroxide and boric acid; wound healing agents such as fish oils, shark liver oil, castor oil, sucralfate and liver yeast cell derivatives; antihistamines such as diphenhydramine, promethazine, cromolyn, cyproheptadine, and azatadine.

25 "Bioadhesive Substance"

The combination of bioadhesive properties of the bioadhesive substance and release time of the biological active substance is adapted to induce a therapeutic effect.

30

Generally, the concentration of the bioadhesive substance is selected to provide a specific release profile of the

biologically active substance to achieve the therapeutic effect.

In a preferred embodiment, the concentration of the
5 bioadhesive substance is in the range 0.05 to 10%, preferably 0.1 to 8%, most preferred 0.1 to 5% (w/w) of the composition.

Generally, the bioadhesive substance can be any substance
10 with bioadhesive properties to mucosal membranes.

The pharmaceutical composition can comprise one or more bioadhesive components.

In a preferred embodiment, the one or more bioadhesive
15 components are selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, such as hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and salts thereof; acrylic polymers such as polyacrylic acids, polymethacrylates, poly(hydroxyethyl methacrylate), poly(methoxyethyl methacrylate),
20 poly(methoxyethoxyethyl methacrylate); proteins such as gelatin; high molecular weight polyhydroxy compounds such as polyvinyl alcohols; high average molecular weight polyalkylene glycols such as polyethylene glycols,
25 optionally cross-linked in particular being with an average molecular weight from about 20,000 to about 4,000,000, propylene glycole, optionally cross-linked with hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups such as glycofurosum; polyvinylpyrrolidones, in particular having
30 an average molecular weight in the range from 10,000 to about 700,000; chitosans, pectins, xanthan gums,

carragenans, locust bean gums, acacia gums, and alginates.

5 In a particularly preferred embodiment, the bioadhesive substance comprises one or more bioadhesive components selected from the group of bioadhesives/water gelling agents such as Carbopol 934, Carbopol 940, Carbopol 941, Carbopol 971, Carbopol 974, Carbopol 980, Carbopol 981, Carbopol 1342, Carbopol 1382, carboxymethylcellulose and 10 hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and salts thereof, xanthan gums, polycarbophil and mixtures thereof.

Pharmaceutically acceptable excipients may include emulsifying agents, surfactants, antioxidants, enzyme 15 inhibitors, buffering agents, preservatives, humectants, chelating agents, gel forming agents, organic solvents, oils, viscosity controlling agents, HLB-controlling agents, ointment bases, osmotic pressure controlling agents, propellants, air displacement, water and mixture 20 thereof. The BAS can optionally be administered in a pharmaceutically or physiologically acceptable vehicle, such as physiological- or phosphate buffered saline, water, dextrose, ethanol polyols (such as glycerol or propylene glycol), and combinations thereof.

25 Examples of antioxidants are butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA), ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, tocopherol and derivatives thereof, and cysteine. Examples of preservatives are parabens, such as methyl or propyl p- 30 hydroxybenzoate, chlorobutanol, benzyl alcohol, phenol, cetylpyridinium chloride and benzalkonium chloride. Examples of substances, which inhibit enzymatic degradation, are aprotinin, DFP. Examples of humectants are glycerine, propylene glycol, sorbitol, and urea.

Examples of chelating agents are sodium EDTA, citric acid and phosphoric acid. Furthermore pH-controlling agents may be selected from acetic acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, potassium metaphosphate, potassium phosphate, sodium acetate, ammonia, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, sodium borate, and triethylamine. Osmotic pressure controlling agents may be selected from dextrose, sodium chloride, mannitol; and propellants may be selected from dichlorodifluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, trichloromonofluoromethane and other non-ozone damaging propellants such as butane. Air displacement may be nitrogen. Substances, which inhibit enzymatic degradation, may be selected from aprotinin, DFP. Solubilizers may be selected from alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, water, glycofurol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycols and stabilizers such as cyclodextrins. Examples of HLB-controlling agents are Tween 20-85, Span 20-80, Brij 30-98 and acacia. Examples of other excipients are oils including almond oil, castor oil, cacao butter, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, linseed oil, olive oil, palm oil, peanut oil, poppy seed oil, rapeseed oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, sunflower oil, teaseed oil and Myglyols. Examples of ointment bases are beeswax, paraffin, cetyl palmitate, vegetable oils, and polyethylene glycols. Formulations of the invention are suitable for direct application or for introduction into relevant orifice(s) of the body, e.g. the rectal, urethral, vaginal or oral orifices.

The preparation according to the invention can be formulated in a solution, a suspension, an emulsion or dispersion and can provide the absorption promoting agent in admixture with a dispersing or wetting agent, suspending agent, and/or one or more preservatives.

- Suitable dispersing or wetting agents are, for example, naturally occurring phosphatides, e.g., lecithin, or soybean lecithin; condensation products of ethylene oxide with e.g. a fatty acid, a long chain aliphatic alcohol, or a partial ester derived from fatty acids and a hexitol or a hexitol anhydride, for example polyoxyethylene stearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitol monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate etc. Suitable suspending agents are: naturally occurring gums such as, e.g., gum acacia, xanthan gum, or gum tragacanth; celluloses such as, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose (e.g. Avicel RC 591), methylcellulose; alginates such as sodium alginate, and others.
- 15 For application to the mucosa, the formulations according to the invention may contain conventional, non-toxic, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and recipients including microspheres and liposomes. The formulations include hydrogels, gels, creams, films, ointments, lotions, liniments, solutions, suspensions, sticks, 20 sprays, pastes, patches, plasters, and other kind of drug delivery systems. In one embodiment, the formulation can be administered as nasal spray, nasal drops, nasal powder, nasal foam or as nasal ointment to the mucosal surface or the adenoids of the nose or as oral spray, 25 oral drops, oral powder, oral patch, oral film, oral foam or as oral ointment especially directed to the buccal area. The formulation can also be in the form of eye drops or eardrops.
- 30 For application to the nasal mucosa, nasal sprays and aerosols for inhalation are suitable compositions for use according to the invention. In a typical nasal formulation, the biologically active substance is present

in the form of a solution or particulate formulation in a suitable vehicle.

5 The pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and excipients and optional other pharmaceutically acceptable materials present in the composition such as diluents, flavoring agents, preservatives and the like are all selected in accordance with conventional pharmaceutical practice in a manner understood by the persons skilled in the art.

10 After administration of a nasal formulation according to the invention, the biologically active substance may be absorbed through the nasal mucosa.

15 Other mucosal surfaces, which are suitable for the administration of formulations of the invention, are the nose, lungs, eye, ear, gastrointestinal tract, genital tract, vaginal or rectal. For application to the rectal or vaginal mucosa, suitable formulations for use according to the invention include suppositories

20 (emulsion or suspension type), enemas, gels, ointments and rectal gelatine capsules (solutions or suspensions). Appropriate pharmaceutically acceptable suppository bases include cocoa butter, esterified fatty acids, glycerinated gelatine, and various water-soluble or

25 dispersible bases like polyethylene glycols and polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters. Various additives can also be incorporated.

30

"Release Profile"

The pharmaceutical composition according to the invention provide a relatively rapid release of the BAS from the

carrier, to the area where the disease to be treated is located. This will achieve the aim of obtaining therapeutic doses of the BAS at the required site promptly and with less salivary dilution than would occur with aqueous mouth wash preparations.

As the diseases to be treated are acute, semi-acute or are acute exacerbations of chronic diseases, a rapid therapeutic dose can be administered over a period of a few days to a few weeks.

In a preferred embodiment, the bioadhesive substance and the optionally physiologically acceptable vehicle are adapted to release about 10% of BAS into the tissues within at least 10 minutes, preferably release about 20% of the BAS within 30 minutes thereby achieving a release which is much longer than that for prior art aqueous mouth bath.

20 "Form of the Pharmaceutical Composition"

Generally, the pharmaceutical composition can be formulated in any suitable form.

25 In preferred embodiments, the form of the pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogel, a gel, a film, a cream, an ointment, a lotion, a liniment, a liposome, a solution, a suspension, a foam, a stick, a spray, a paste, a patch, a plaster, 30 suppositories or gelatin capsules.

A particularly suitable formulation for use according to the invention is a gel formulation, in particular a hydrogel. A detailed discussion of hydrogels for vaginal

and oral application is found in Knuth et al. (Knuth et al., Hydrogel delivery systems for vaginal and oral applications. *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews*, 11, 137-167, 1993). Hydrogels are established using hydrophilic
5 natural or synthetic polymers that have the ability to swell in aqueous environment without any substantial dissolution. The preferred hydrogels are compositions with good bioadhesive properties to the mucous membranes of the oral cavity.

10

The presently preferred formulation comprises a gel or gel-like composition, in particular a hydrogel, which will be discussed in greater detail below, but it is anticipated that formulations which can be applied to and
15 remain in contact with mucosa, may also be useful. Examples of other formulations are liquids or pastes of sufficient viscosity, typically a dynamic viscosity above 30.0 cP (centipoises) at 25°C, based on such liquids, pastes or foam formulations, including expanding foam
20 formulations, and often delivered from an aerosol product. It is believed to be an important feature of any such composition that the composition is capable of being applied to and remain for a relevant period of time on the mucosa being treated.

25

In a preferred embodiment, the composition consists of a pharmaceutical formulation containing a hydrogel or a gel with bioadhesive properties to mucosal membranes whereby it releases the BAS to the site of application and
30 systemic action is prevented.

"Application of the Pharmaceutical Composition"

Application of the active component is topical. Therapy may be for short, intermediate or long periods either in

- continuous or intermittent treatment schedules depending on the nature of the disease being treated. The formulation, which is prepared in accordance with the present invention, comprises the use of the following
- 5 main components: a substance having bioadhesive properties; and a biologically active substance having MMP inhibitory activity; and an optional physiologically acceptable vehicle.
- 10 The formulation can be administered to mucosal surfaces in humans or animals by a variety of routes including, but not limited to, by sublingual, oral, vaginal and rectal routes. In a preferred embodiment, the composition is administered to vaginal, buccal or rectal mucous
- 15 membrane. The amount of biologically active agent employed in such formulation will vary depending upon the identity of the biologically active substance.
- The method of the present invention comprises administering to a mammal, particularly a human, pets or
- 20 breeding animals, a pharmacologically effective dose of a biologically active substance and a pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention. For example, doxycycline doses of from about 0,5mg/g to about 5mg/g, and more particularly from about 0,5mg/g to about 1,5mg/g
- 25 will typically be effective to provide an MMP inhibitory effects; however, variations in these dosage ranges will occur depending upon the particular formulations and biologically active agent. Moreover, the particular dosage will depend upon the age and medical condition of
- 30 the mammal to be treated, as well as on the method of administration. The skilled researcher will readily determine suitable doses.

For liquid compositions it is essential that the effective amount of the biologically active substance can be administered in an appropriate volume. For buccal administration the volume should not exceed about 1000 μ l for a human subjects. A larger volume can be disagreeable to the patient and will drain out to the pharynx and swallowed. The result is that a part of the biologically active substance is lost from the effective site. The volume is preferably from about 10 μ l to about 500 μ l.

10 For the administration to the eye, nose and the ear a volume not exceeding 300 μ l should be used. For the administration to the lungs, a volume not exceeding 2 ml should be used. For the administration to the vagina, a volume not exceeding 30 ml should be used.

15 administration to the gastrointestinal tract a volume not exceeding 100 ml should be used.

The formulation according to the invention is especially suitable for humans, including infants (except with tetracycline's as BAS), children(except with tetracycline's as BAS), adolescents, teenagers, adults and elderly. The nature of the formulation provides the ability to enhance the absorption of a variety of biologically active agents, and therefore the formulation

25 may be used for subjects with various conditions such as humans with disease, e.g., splenectomized subjects, subjects with cancer, subjects using anticancer drugs, subjects using antibiotics, subjects using anti-inflammatory drugs, subjects with hyper-and

30 hypothyroidism, subjects having problems with malabsorption such as diarrhea.

The formulation according to the invention is also suitable for administration to animals such as horses,

sheep, dogs, cats, cows, pigs, goats, rabbits, wild animals and laboratory animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, dogs, cats or monkeys; For animals, the concentration of each component may need to be adjusted. For example for dog, the buccal cavity has extremely high humidity, which may require addition of water absorbing excipients to the formulation.

10 3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the following, by way of examples only, the invention is further disclosed with detailed description of preferred embodiments. Reference is made to the drawings in which

FIG.1 illustrates MMP inhibition activity of doxycycline at various concentrations (example 1).

20 FIG.2 illustrates a diffusion profile (%) of doxycycline from formulation A through a synthetic membrane versus time (example 8).

25 FIG.3 shows a release profile (%) of doxycycline from formulation A versus time (example 7).

4. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

30 "Formulation of the Pharmaceutical Composition"

The biologically active agent such as the MMP inhibitory substance may be used in a particulate form or dissolved. The formulation is especially suitable for dissolved BAS;

however, particulate forms are also easy to prepare into the formulation.

5 The effect on the natural bacterial flora of the BAS according to the invention, with a particular biologically active agent, can be assessed using methods known in the art, such as described in Example 4.

10 Typically the BAS will be administered with a formulation, either in the same admixture or composition, or at the same time but in a separate composition or formulation.

15 Comparisons of the use of BAS in the formulation according to the invention and other methods can be performed by routine methods, such as evaluating the bacterial flora prior to and after the treatment using the bacteriological method described in Example 4.

20 The following Examples are offered for the purpose of illustrating the present invention and are not to be construed to limit the scope of this invention.

Example 1 (MMP INHIBITION)

25 In checking the inhibition of the doxycycline on MMP's a Zymography method was used (Mackay et al., *Cancer Res.*, 50(18), 5997-6001, 1990). The concentration of doxycycline needed to fully inhibit the gelatinolytic activity of MMP-2 and MMP-9 using this method.

30

Cell culture: HT-1080 is human fibrosarcoma cell line which is known to secrete a large amount of several matrix-degrading enzymes, among which are MMP-2 and MMP-9

(Kawamata et al., *International Journal of Oncology*, 13, 699-704, 1998). The MMP inhibition of doxycycline was tested on MMP-2 and MMP-9, which were acquired from HT-1080, and showed that complete inhibition was achieved at 50 μ M (24 μ g/mL) for MMP-9 and at 100 μ M (48 μ g/mL) for MMP-2.

As seen in figure 1, the gels were exposed to different concentration of doxycycline solution and after development, the result were determined visually.

Example 2 (Formulation)

The compositions according to the invention were manufactured according to table below:

15	Component:	Formulation A	Formulation B
	Carbopol 934	X (1,0%)	
	HPMC	X (0,48%)	
	Chlorhexidine 20%		X (4,44%)
20	Xanthan Gum		X (3,5%)
	Doxycycline, HCl	X (0,15%)	X (0,15%)
	Propylene glycol	X (10%)	X (10%)
	Methylparahydroxybenzoat	X (0,08%)	X (0,08%)
25	Propylparahydroxybenzoat	X (0,02%)	X (0,02%)
	EDTA	X (0,1%)	X (0,1%)
	Natrii Pyrosulfis	X (0,15%)	X (0,15%)
30	Distilled water	X (ad 100%)	X (ad 100%)

Bioadhesives and gelling agents are dissolved in warm water and stirred overnight while the solution cools; the preservatives are dissolved in propylene glycol. These gel solutions are combined under cautious stirring and

when a homogenous solution is achieved the propylene glycol solution is added. The pH of the composition is adjusted to around pH 7 with NaOH. Antioxidants along with the active ingredient are dissolved in the water, which is needed to achieve the correct weight. The hydrogel is then centrifuged to remove air bubbles.

The hydrogel is preferably stored in an airtight (hermetic) and light-resistant container, to preserve the drug from oxygen and light that might induce oxidation of the active ingredient.

Example 3 (Bacterial activity)

Preparations of recommended treatment doses of medications according to the literature and this invention, respectively, are applied to 5mm diameter filter paper disks. These disks are then placed on to agar plates freshly inoculated with bacterial cultures of (a) Staphylococcus aureus and (b) Streptococcus mutans. After incubation for 2 days the zones of inhibition of bacterial growth around the disks are measured. The following drugs were tested: (I) Atridox®; (II) Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml); (III) Gentian violet 0,5%; (IV) Hexadent®; (V) Kank-A®; (VI) Formulation A (as described in example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline; (VII) control gel of formulation A (example 2) and (VIII) Periostat®, (IX) Tetracycline 10µg commercial disk.

The control gel was the only preparation which had no effect on the bacteria and very little effect was apparent from Kank-A®. Hexadent® and Gentian violet 0,5% showed an inhibition zone about the average for the materials tested. Atridox®, Periostat®, tetracycline disk, Formulation A (as described in example 2) 1,5mg/g

doxycycline and Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml) have marked effect on the growth of the bacteria. Formulation A 1,5mg/g doxycycline does show an inhibition in this concentration but no more than Atridox or Periostat (Table 1). It is predictable that inhibition will occur given the nature of the active substance, this is a positive action in the core of ulceration and as shown in example 5 it does not have this marked effect on the bacteria when in the mixed normal flora nor following diffusion from the base of the ulcer or other lesion.

Products	Diameter of circle around disk (mm)	
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. mutans</i>
Atridox®	18	23,5
Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml)	26	32
Gentian violet 0.5%	12	13
Hexadent®	6,5	11
Kank-A®	2	2
Formulation A (example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline	14	29
Control gel of formulation A (example 2)	0	0
Periostat® 2mg/ml	19	26
Tetracycline disk 10µg	18	28

Table 1: Bacterial activity of commercially available formulations on *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus mutans* (Diameter of disk was 5mm.).

Example 4 (Bacterial-activity)

5

To check the activity of the gel on the growth of oral bacteria two tests were preformed; (i) standard tube dilation test to determine the minimum inhibitory concentration of gel and (ii) a test of the sensitivity of oral microorganisms, in mixed culture to disks impregnated with the gel.

(i) The test organisms for the tube dilation study were *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus sanguis* and *Streptococcus mutans* and 1 g of each gel formulation was diluted in Todd-Hewitt broth in a series of 5 doubling dilutions. Each tube was inoculated with 25 µl of the test organism. The MIC was recorded as the highest dilution that inhibited visible growth in the test tube. Subculture from the tube on to blood agar plates was preformed to determine the minimum bactericidal concentration. None of the formulations other than the one containing chlorhexidine had any observable inhibitory effect on the test organism whereas the formulation containing chlorhexidine inhibited the test strains at all concentrations.

(ii) Disks impregnated with each formulation were placed onto blood agar plates freshly inoculated with mixed oral bacteria collected from healthy volunteers by chewing wax and spitting out 1 ml. of saliva. Incubation of the agar plates was for 48 hours in candle jars. After incubation the plates were examined for zones around the disks that would suggest that the mixed flora or a component of it

had been inhibited by the formulation. No inhibition was seen except for the formulation containing chlorhexidine.

Example 5 (Effect on the normal flora)

Samples were taken from following mucosal areas: (I) buccal mucosa; (II) nasal mucosa; (III) eye mucosa. The test is done according to (ii) described in example 4. The following commercially available preparations were tested on normal flora from (I) buccal mucosa; (II) nasal mucosa; (III) eye mucosa; Atridox®, Bonjela®, Dexocort®, Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml), Gentian violet 0,5%, Hexadent®, Kank-A®, Kenalog®, Listerine®, Formulation A (example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline, control gel of formulation A (example 2) and Periostat®.

Buccal flora:

Bonjela®, Dexocort®, Kank-A®, Kenalog®, control gel (example 2) and Listerine® did not show any inhibiting effect. Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml) and Atridox® showed much inhibiting effect, but Hexadent®, Gentian violet 0,5% and Periostat® had average inhibiting effect compared with the other preparations [Table 2].

Formulation A (example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline showed no inhibiting effect apart from a faint circle around the disk which might have been an inhibition of some strains of streptococci. (B1-B5 represents samples from 5 individuals)

Products	Diameter of circle around disk (mm)				
	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
Atridox®	15,5	23	6	11	9,5
Bonjela®	0	0	0	0	0
Dexocort®	0	0	0	0	0
Formulation A (example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline	0/6,5 ¹	0/7	0/5	0/8,5	0/0
Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml)	12	6	14	14,5	4,5
Gentian violet 0.5%	5,5	4	6	5	5,5
Hexadent®	3,5	3	3,5	3	3
Kank-A®	0	0	0	0	0
Kenalog®	0	0	0	0	0
Control gel of formulation A (example 2)	0	0	0	0	0
Listerine®	0	0	0	0	0
Periostat® 2mg/ml	6/20	4/16	4/12,5	3,5/13,5	0/0

Table 2: Effect on buccal flora. 1) Inner / outer circle

Nasal flora:

- 5 Bonjela®, Dexocort® and Kenalog® did not have any inhibiting effect but Listerine® and control gel (example 2) did have a minor inhibiting effect in one sample. Kank-A® and Hexadent® had some inhibiting effect. Atridox®, Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml),
- 10 Periostat® and Gentian violet 0,5% had great inhibiting effect.

Formulation A (example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline showed about half the inhibiting effect of the other preparations [Table 3].

Products	Diameter of circle around disk (mm)				
	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5
Atridox®	28	23	29,5	25	27
Bonjela®	0	0	0	0	0
Dexocort®	0	3	0	0	0
Formulation A (example 2) 1,5mg/g doxycycline	8	12,2	16	22,5	14
Doxycycline solution (DPF/BNF) (25mg/ml)	33,6	26	19,6	25,6	30
Gentian violet 0.5%	16,5	14,5	23	15	17,5
Hexadent®	9	8	9	10,3	8,5
Kank-A®	7	3	4,5	4,5	7
Kenalog®	0	0	0	0	0
Control gel of formulation A (example 2)	0	0	0	4,5	0
Listerine®	0	0	0	0	2,5
Periostat® 2mg/ml	24,5	26	41	30	34,3

5 Table 3: Effect on nasal flora.

Eye flora:

No natural flora was cultured from the samples from the eye mucosa. The reason for this is probably the effect of lysozyme that is present in the eye and has bactericidal effect to protect the eye from bacteria.

Example 6 (Bioadhesion)

In measuring the bioadhesion of the formulations the TA.XT2 Texture Analyser from Stable Micro Systems (England) was used. This apparatus measures and
5 calculates the detachment force needed to pull the composition from a membrane.

The membranes used for bioadhesive measurements were synthetic molecular porous membrane (Spectra/Por® Membrane MWCO: 12-14,000) and pig buccal mucous membrane
10 as well as intestinal membrane.

Bioadhesion has been evaluated for the ingredients of the composition alone and in various formulations, and it has been found that carbopol has good bioadhesive properties alone compared to many other compounds (Nielsen et al.,
15 *European Journal of Pharmaceutical Science*, 6, 231-239, 1998). The bioadhesive properties of the compositions, where the peak detachment force and area under force time curve were measured with the TA.XT2 Texture Analyser (Stable Micro Systems, England) and then the work of
20 adhesion was calculated. The formulas which are examined are (I) formulation A (example 2) and (II) formulation B (example 2).

An artificial membrane was used as the receiver substrate (Spectra/Por® Membrane MWCO: 12-14,000).
25

To keep the volume of gels applied constant, they were measured and applied to the probes using a syringe.

The settings of the TA-XT2 were as follows:

Probe lowering speed: 0,1 mm/s

Contact force: 0,2N

5 Contact time: 30 s

Probe withdrawal rate: 0,1 mm/s

Withdrawal height: 10 mm

Contact area: 201 mm²

- 10 Each experiment was carried out three times.
The force needed to detach the hydrogel was recorded as a function of elongation and both maximum strength and area under force/time curve were obtained. The results were converted into work of adhesion (mJ/cm²) and then
15 represented as a mean value with standard deviation (Table 4). Formulations containing xanthan demonstrated the highest work of adhesion (table 1) although the peak detachment force was low; this is due of the nature of the composition. The binding found for formulations
20 containing polyacrylic acid is markedly greater than what Nielsen (Nielsen et al., European Journal of Pharmaceutical Science, 6, 231-239, 1998) found with Carbopol 934 alone (0,037 ±0,020) or HPMC alone (0,036±0,013) as polymer film at the end of a probe using
25 pig intestine as a receiver membrane.
The results, obtained using an artificial membrane, indicate that this method of measuring hydrogel adhesion gives reliable results.

30

COMPOSITION	Peak detachment force (N)	Area under force/time curve (Ns)	Work of adhesion (mJ/cm ²)	SD
Formulation B	0,178	1,446	0,073	0,0012
Formulation A	0,375	1,322	0,066	0,0159

Table 4. Work of adhesion calculated from the data produced by TA-XT2.

Example 7 (Drug release)

5

A release study was preformed using disk assembly described in paddle over disk method in USP / NF XXIII, adjusted to a 100ml. Receptor phase was a phosphate buffer pH6,8 and the system was maintained at 37°C.

10

Samples were taken from the system at times; 0,5 , 1, 5, 10, 15, 30, 45, 60, 120, 180, 240, 300 minutes. T Samples were analyzed using a HPLC method.

Results:

Release figures are in table 6 and a release profile is in figure 3.

Time (min)	Release I (%)	Release II (%)	Release III (%)	Mean Release (%)	SD
0,5	0,977836702	0,937251661	1,041079872	0,985389412	0,052324534
1	2,090403502	1,952867211	1,377955373	1,807075362	0,377937867
5	4,769138448	5,346195566	5,810902704	5,308745573	0,521890858
10	7,406709429	10,46352697	8,951316144	8,940517514	1,528437381
15	12,18791336	12,73224295	12,47775093	12,46596908	0,272355986
30	22,16514284	17,70554743	19,71048752	19,8603926	2,233573696
45	20,19828179	22,61826758	26,23893128	23,01849355	3,040147559
60	22,3038085	28,92396024	32,11835113	27,78203995	5,005926307
120	37,00453446	33,62068026	51,42546128	40,68355866	9,455367318
180	58,49448212	46,54663203	54,25473829	53,09861748	6,05724706
240	74,44968231	64,08570217	74,58967925	71,04168791	6,02446703
300	80,75272063	74,44177708	74,09968793	76,43139521	3,746284326

Table 6: Results of the drug release study of
5 formulation A.

Example 8 (Drug diffusion)

Applying formulation A according to the invention to a
synthetic dialysis membrane (Spectra/Por® Membrane MWCO:
12-14,000), drug diffusion is evaluated by using cells
10 based on Franz design. Pieces of membrane were mounted
in vertical diffusion cells, based on Franz design. The
receptor medium consisted of isotonic phosphate buffer pH
7,4. Receptor solutions were maintained at 37°C and
constantly stirred with a magnetic bar. Gel was applied

to the membrane and samples withdrawn periodically over 4 h, and refilled immediately with fresh buffer, a final sample was taken at 24 h. Samples were analyzed using a HPLC method.

5 Results:

Diffusion figures are in table 5 and profile in figure 2.

Time (h)	Diffusion I	Diffusion II	Diffusion III	Mean diffusion (%)	SD
0,25	7,228063	6,297016	5,983981	6,503019923	0,647119
0,5	10,86487	9,930168	9,461612	10,0855511	0,714418
1	19,12093	17,33472	15,81758	17,42441027	1,653497
2	32,80432	29,59564	26,33029	29,57675166	3,237056
4	53,59996	50,68104	43,2434	49,17479874	5,340055
24	90,51459	88,7762	86,49847	88,59642035	2,014086

Table 5: Results of diffusion analysis through a synthetic membrane

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION FOR TREATMENT OF MUCOSAL
EPITHELIAL ULCERATION AND/OR EROSION

5 CLAIMS

1. A bioadhesive pharmaceutical composition for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosions; said composition comprising:

- 10 (i) a bioadhesive substance;
 (ii) a biologically active substance having MMP
 inhibitory activity; and
 (iii) an optional physiologically acceptable vehicle;

15 said bioadhesive substance and optional physiologically acceptable vehicle being selected to release the biologically active substance in a therapeutic amount into the epithelia of the mucosa without affecting the normal flora thereof.

20

2. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the biologically active substance is released in a release profile comprising a release of about 10% within at least 10 min.

25

3. The composition according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the biologically active substance is released in a release profile comprising a release of about 20% within at least 30 min.

30

4. The composition according to any of claims 1-3 wherein the concentration of the biologically active substance is in the range 0.05 to 0.5%, preferably 0.1 to 0.5%, most preferred 0.1 to 0.3% (w/w) of the composition.

5

5. The composition according to any of claims 1-4 wherein the concentration of the bioadhesive substance is in the range 0.05 to 10%, preferably 0.1 to 8%, most preferred 0.1 to 5% (w/w) of the composition.

10

6. The composition according to any of claims 1-5 being in form of a hydrogel, a gel, a film, a cream, an ointment, a lotion, a liniment, a liposome, a solution, a suspension, a foam, a stick, a spray, a paste, a patch, a plaster, suppositories or gelatin capsules.

15

7. The composition according to claim 6 being in form of a hydrogel or a gel with bioadhesive properties to mucosal membranes.

8. The composition according to any of claims 1-7 further comprising one or more bioadhesive components selected from the group consisting of: polysaccharides, such as hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and salts thereof; acrylic polymers such as polyacrylic acids, polymethacrylates, poly(hydroxyethyl methacrylate), poly(methoxyethyl methacrylate), poly(methoxyethoxyethyl methacrylate); proteins, such as gelatin; high molecular weight polyhydroxy compounds such as polyvinyl alcohols; high average molecular weight polyalkylene glycols such as polyethylene glycols, optionally cross-linked in particular being with an average molecular weight from

20
25
30

about 20,000 to about 4,000,000, propylene glycole, optionally cross-linked with hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups such as glycofurosum; polyvinylpyrrolidones, in particular having an average molecular weight in the
5 range from 10,000 to about 700,000; chitosans, pectins, xanthan gums, carragenans, locust bean gums, acacia gums, and alginates.

9. The composition according to any of claims 1-8 wherein the bioadhesive substance comprises one or more
10 bioadhesive components selected from the group of bioadhesives/water gelling agents such as Carbopol 934, Carbopol 940, Carbopol 941, Carbopol 971, Carbopol 974, Carbopol 980, Carbopol 981, Carbopol 1342, Carbopol 1382, carboxymethylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose
15 and salts thereof, xanthan gums, polycarbophil and mixtures thereof.

10. The composition according to any of claims 1-9 wherein the biologically active substance is in a dissolved form.

20 11. The composition according to any of claims 1-10 wherein the biologically active substance is in a particulate form.

25 12. The composition according to any of claims 1-11 wherein the biologically active substance is selected from the group consisting of tetracyclines or its derivatives such as tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline or oxytetracycline, and in a concentration below antimicrobial concentration.

13. The composition according to any of claims 1-12 further comprising one or more additional active ingredients.

5 14. The composition according to claim 13 wherein the one or more additional active ingredients is selected from the group consisting of anesthetics including benzocaine, pramoxine, dibucaine, diclonine, lidocaine, mepiracaine, prilocaine and tetracaine; astringents including
10 calamine, zinc oxide, tannic acid, hamamelis water, zinc sulfate; wound cleansers such as benzalkonium chloride, carbamide peroxide, tannic acid, salicylic acid, triclosan, benzoyl peroxide and boric acid; wound healing agents such as fish oils, shark liver oil, castor oil,
15 sucralfate and liver yeast cell derivatives; antihistamines such as diphenhydramine, promethazine, cromolyn, cyproheptadine, and azatadine.

15. The composition according to any of claims 1-14
20 further comprising one or more additional ingredients.

16. The composition according to claim 15 wherein the one or more additional ingredients is selected from the group consisting of surfactants, water absorbing polymers, substances which inhibit enzymatic degradation; organic
25 solvents such as alcohols, oils, pH-controlling agents, solubilizers, stabilizers, HLB-controlling agents, viscosity controlling agents, preservatives, osmotic pressure controlling agents, propellants, air
30 displacement, water, and mixtures thereof.

17. Use of a composition according to Claim 1-16 for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion of humans.

18. Use according to claim 17 wherein the administration is to a surface of a mucosa.
- 5 19. Use according to claim 18 wherein the mucosal surface include parts of the mucosa that is inflamed, ulcerated or surface eroded, said ulcerated and surface eroded mucosa wholly or partly extending through the surface epithelial layer of the mucosa but only extending just
10 into the underlying lamina propria.
20. Use according to claim 17-19 wherein the mucosal surface is selected from the group of mucosal surfaces of the nose, lungs, mouth, eye, ear, gastrointestinal tract,
15 genital tract, vagina and rectum.
21. A method of treating mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion in a mammal, said method comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a
20 composition according to any of claims 1-16.
22. A method of delivering a biologically active substance to the mucosa of a mammal for treatment of mucosal epithelial ulceration and/or erosion, said method
25 comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a composition according to any of claims 1-16.
23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the mammal is a horse, cow, cat, dog, hamster, guinea pig or another
30 animal used as pets or for breeding.
24. A method according to any of claims 21-23 wherein the biologically active substance is administered a dose that

does not affect the normal flora located at the mucosal surface.

25. A method according to any of claims 21-24 wherein the
5 biologically active substance is administered to the
oral, nasal, ocular, rectal or vaginal mucosa in a volume
not exceeding 2 ml for oral, nasal and ocular mucosa,
preferably 0.01-0.5 ml, and in a volume not exceeding 30
ml for rectal or vaginal mucosa.

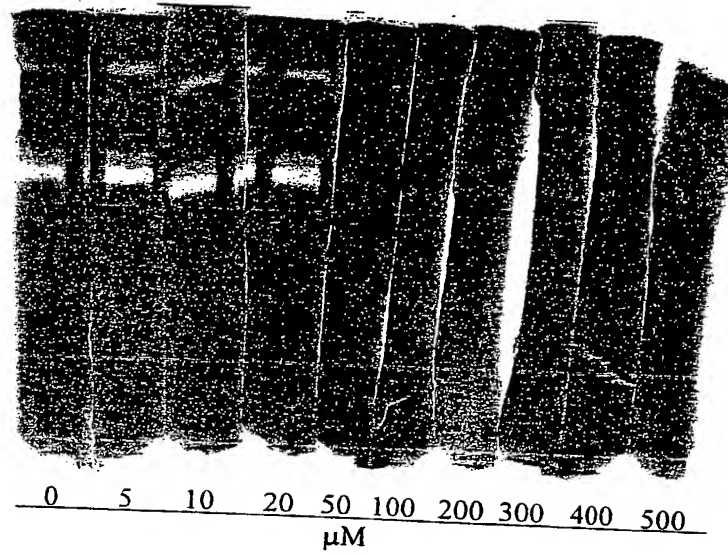
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26. A method according to any of claims 21-25 wherein the
formulation is administered to splenectomized subjects,
subjects with cancer, subjects using anticancer drugs,
subjects using antibiotics, subjects using anti-inflam-
15 matory drugs, subjects with hyper- and hypothyroidism,
subjects having problems with malabsorption such as
diarrhea.

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Figure 1:
MMP-inhibition of doxycycline.



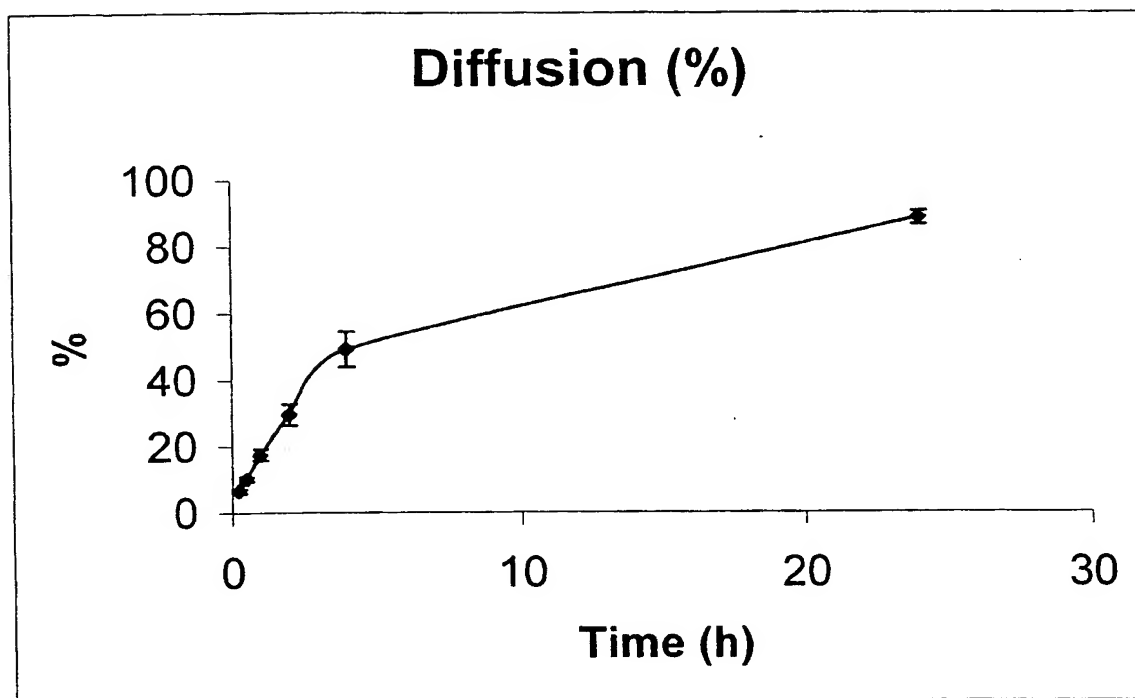
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Figure 2:

A diffusion profile of formulation A through a synthetic membrane.

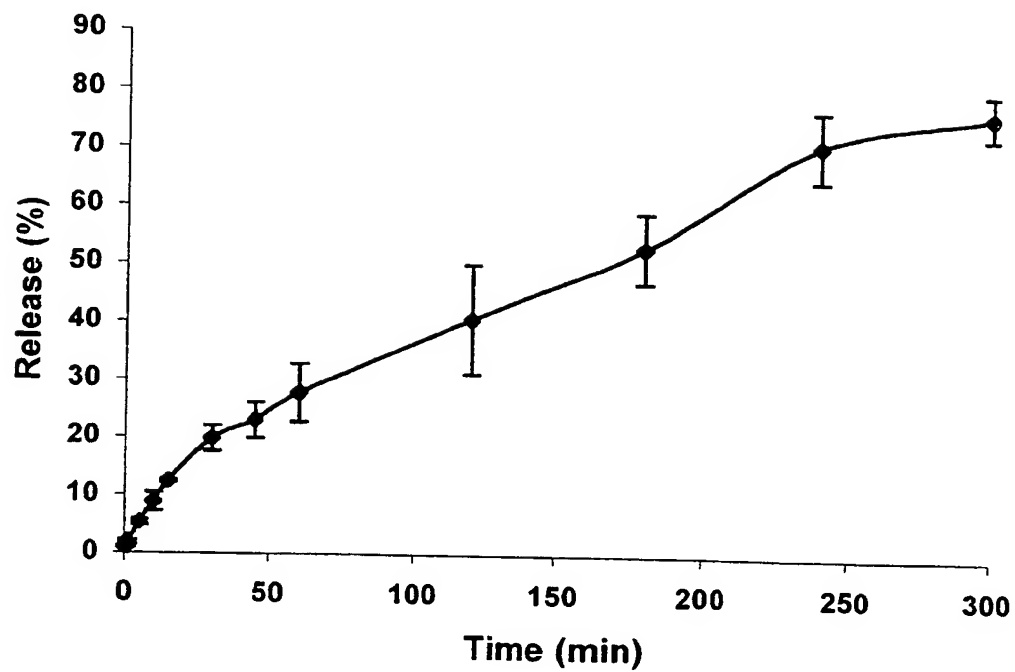
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Figure 3:

Release vs. Time curve of formulation A



5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IS 00/00013

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61K 9/00, A61K 47/00, A61K 47/30, A61K 31/65

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4894232 A (BERNHARD REÜL ET AL), 16 January 1990 (16.01.90), the claims --	1-26
X	EP 0125759 A2 (UNILEVER PLC ET AL), 21 November 1984 (21.11.84), page 2, line 22 - line 25, the claims --	1-26
X	EP 0288945 A2 (HOECHST AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT), 2 November 1988 (02.11.88), the claims --	1-26
X	DE 19536411 A1 (STANKOV, GEORGI), 15 May 1996 (15.05.96) --	1-26

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 March 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 Avril 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IS 00/00013

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No. .
X	DE 4434929 A1 (STANKOV, GEORGI), 4 January 1996 (04.01.96) --	1-26
X	WO 9817251 A1 (VIROTEX CORPORATION), 30 April 1998 (30.04.98), page 15, line 18, the claims --	1-26
X	WO 9321905 A1 (BERLEX BIOSCIENCES DIVISION OF BERLEX LABORATORIES, INC.), 11 November 1993 (11.11.93), page 4, line 25 - line 29; page 7, line 24, the claims --	1-26
X	GB 1216268 A (PIERREL S.P.A.), 16 December 1970 (16.12.70), page 1, line 8 - line 21, example 4 and the claims --	1-26
X	WO 9609829 A1 (VIROTEX CORPORATION), 4 April 1996 (04.04.96), page 1, line 13 - line 17; page 5, line 1, the claims --	1-26
X	STN International, File CAPLUS, CAPLUS accession no. 1976:95585, Document no. 84:95585, Korbar-Smid, Jelka et al: "Oxytetracycline formulation to be applied at the oral mucosa"; & Acta Pharm. Jugosl. (1975), 25(4), 271-6 --	1-26
A	WO 9945910 A2 (MUCOSAL THERAPEUTICS LLC), 16 Sept 1999 (16.09.99) -- -----	1-26

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IS00/00013

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: **21-26**
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
See extra sheet
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IS00/00013

Claims 21-26 relate to methods of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or by therapy/diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body/ Rule. 39.1.(iv). Nevertheless, a search has been executed for these claims. The search has been based on the alleged effects of the compound(s)/composition(s).

Form PCT/ISA/210 (extra sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/IS 00/00013

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
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